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ble of, suitable encouragement given to agriculture, and every obstacle to its extension removed, Great Britain would have no occasion to depend on a foreign Country for grain: her wants might be amply supplied from hence, and the immense sums of money annually sent to the Continent saved to the Empire.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

In last Month's Report some notice was taken of the cotton trade, so far as its sudden fluctuations had an injurious effect on the morals of the weavers; and it may probably also be safely asserted, that consequences equally injurious attend the unsteady and fluctuating gains of their employers. In the present report, it may be allowed to show the hurtful effects both as to morals and health arising from the youth of both sexes mixing together promiscuously in such crowds as usually attend cotton-factories, from under parental care, unless the greatest precaution is taken to prevent the injurious consequences so likely to result. In the system of trade, man is too frequently considered as a machine, by whose labour money is to be put into the pockets of his employer, while his morals and health are totally disregarded. To a traveller through Lancashire and Yorkshire, these melancholy truths are strikingly obvious; and there is much reason to fear that morals are greatly deteriorating in these populous manufacturing districts. The writer of this report, had in 1806 the authority of a gentleman at the bar, who travelled the English Northern Circuit, and was in most extensive practice, that the number of crimes, and those of the greatest enormity, as appeared by the calendar, were rapidly increasing in these two counties. As manufactures extend in this country, there is reason to fear that the vices of idleness, which in some parts of Ireland arise from want of employment, may without great care be converted into the evils of trade, carried on with a disregard to what alone constitutes the happiness of a people, a system of sound morals. These warnings are given that sufficient care may be exercised by all concerned, who from their situation ought to be the *guardians* of those whom they employ, lest what under due regulation might prove of essential advantage as a blessing, should become a curse.

In England to attempt to remedy these evils, the legislature has interfered, and acts have been passed limiting the hours of work, enforcing the white-washing of the walls, and wabing out the floors of factories, and requiring the masters to have their apprentices taught at least an hour every day in the necessary branches of school-learning. The Justices at quarter sessions are authorized to have these regulations enforced, and for that purpose to appoint visitors from their own body, to inspect the cotton factories within their respective districts. These laws extend to Ireland, but hitherto they have not been generally, if at all, executed. In Scotland, it is presumed that a stricter system prevails. At Rothesay in the isle of Bute, a large cotton mill exists, in which from its sequestered situation it is more easy to keep up a kind of family discipline, and in which parents and children are employed together. By the care of the employers it may be taken as a model for imitation to other factories. A schoolmaster is employed, who, instead of giving a confused and hurried instruction to all the children, for one or two hours in the day, to comply in some measure with the letter of the act of parliament, is in regular attendance through the day and by dividing the children into classes has ten or twelve of them with him for an hour at a time. The children thus improve, because it is an agreeable relaxation of an hour from their other work, and habits of regularity and economy of time are early formed in them. The workmen at this factory have a well chosen library formed by subscription among themselves, consisting of upwards of 300 volumes, for the amusement and improvement of their leisure hours.

If we turn to the linen trade as it is carried on in this country, we shall find many things in the manner of conducting it favourable to good morals. The youth are not assembled together in large multitudes; the daughters spin under the care of their mothers, while the sons are engaged with their fathers at the looms in their small weaving shops. The parental domestic care is not interrupted by a departure from that place of safety for youth, the family homestead; and if the father escape the danger of contracting the habitual practice of drinking to excess, when he attends the weekly market to purchase his yarn, and sell his linen, there is little to interrupt the happiness of the domestic circle, which as well "in the simple annals of the poor," as in higher situations, affords the most favourable spot for the growth and developement of virtuous principles. We may also add the advantages of the poor man having a few acres to cultivate. He thus diversifies his employment, and in spring and autumn encreases his stock

of health by exchanging his too sedentary engagement at the loom for the labours of the field. In the view of the agriculturist, who calculates only on profit, his lands may not appear so well cultivated, nor as much made of them, as in the hands of a farmer who occupied himself solely in agriculture; but the united character of weaver and farmer, and of bleacher and farmer produces a greater stock of comfort; he raises his own potatoes, and *his own* cow affords milk to his family. Probably the stock of national wealth is not encreased so much as by a contrary practice, and the nicety of the manufacture may suffer a little from his change of employment; but the happiness of individuals, which is of far more consequence than wealth, is doubtlessly greatly increased, as it is found that the owner of a few acres of land is much more comfortable than his neighbour who does not enjoy that advantage. We may be allowed with the honest exultation of benevolence, partaking in the happiness of others, to contrast the inmates of the country cabin possessing, in independence, a few acres of land, with the sickly inhabitants of the populous city, or large manufacturing town, unhealthily crowded together, in dirty rooms and an impure atmosphere, the victims of commercial avarice, to add by gains extracted from their labour to the wealth of the overgrown capitalist.

It is the wish of the writer of these reports to attempt to add importance to them by diversifying the subjects introduced, so that they may not altogether be a dry detail of commercial speculations.

To come now to the more immediate matter of a Commercial Report, it may be remarked, that the relaxation, of the restrictions on the exports from Holland was of very short continuance. The Dutch government studying the good of their subjects most probably gave the permission, which Bonaparte wholly intent on annoyance of the English, and regardless of the advantages of Holland, very likely commanded to be withdrawn, as soon as the permission to relax came to his knowledge.

Sugar has advanced 20s. per cwt. The West Indian trade has suffered greatly from low prices of late. In addition to which, the merchants having plantations in these islands are said to have been very improvident in the mode of managing their estates, while both they and their managers have indulged in luxury and sought to make up their losses by overworking the slaves in many instances to such a degree as that their avarice and cruelty have been defeated, and their losses encreased by the unprofitable and atrocious waste of "human sinews." Undoubtedly the West Indian Merchants have suffered greatly, but yet little commiseration is justly due to them.

During the last Session of Parliament much discussion took place, and a committee was appointed to investigate the claims of the West Indian planters. In consequence a bill was passed to stop the distillation from grain, and to permit the use of sugar in the distilleries; during the discussions on this subject, neither of the parties appeared to take the right ground. The supporters of the measure pleaded for it as necessary to encourage the colonies; while it was opposed, lest it might prove hurtful to the agricultural interests of these countries.

The necessity of the measure, as a prevention against scarcity was seldom advanced. If the bill had passed more timely, it might have lowered the price of provisions during the last summer, and now we are pleased to see that government have signified their intention of continuing the prohibition of distilling from grain until the meeting of Parliament; a measure which appears highly necessary from the grain of last harvest being less productive than usual, and from the fears, that the ports of America, and the Baltic may not be open to us to afford the usual supplies which Great Britain drew from these Countries.

The question of Bank Notes against guineas is now likely to be speedily settled, not according to the theoretical reasonings of the adherents to the gold system or its opponents; but to suit the convenience of the money-jobbers, some of whom are going to quit the guinea trade, and commence wholesale dealers in paper. The people must comply, and so probably this business of two media, which has so long been carried on to the emolument of the knowing, will be likely to cease. Two additional banks are to be opened shortly in Belfast.

Tallow has lately advanced in price, up to 15s. and 16s. per stone. Candles and soap got a start fully adequate to the rise on the raw materials. But from the principle of elasticity of the human mind, many private families have made efforts to relieve themselves from this additional pressure on family expenses by substituting the use of oil for candles. Exchange has this month been nearly sta-

tionary, being for guineas in Belfast $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent. Discount on bank notes $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Exchange in Dublin $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{3}{4}$.

Probably in our next Month's Report we shall be able to state the decision of the American Congress on the embargo. Until we hear of their proceedings we must continue in painful suspense on this subject, which now comes so closely home to us in this quarter of the empire.

We are now beginning to feel more forcibly the inconveniences of the American embargo, and the shutting up of the northern ports of Europe. Flax and cotton have advanced enormously. In consequence of which brown linens have become very dear. The prices have risen so much within these few weeks, as to make it questionable, how far it may be safe to purchase at present prices. The heavy losses sustained after the high prices in 1799 ought not to be forgotten. If linens continue to advance, they may not probably meet a ready sale, when they are brought to a white market, and some cheaper temporary substitute may be found for them in domestic economy. Linen yarn both hand-spun, and mill-spun is greatly advanced.

If the embargo is not speedily removed, and the probability is against its removal, we appear to be on the eve of an alarming crisis. Less flaxseed was sown last spring than usual. The wet summer injured the crop to a considerable degree, and prevented the saving of flaxseed. If the American embargo be continued, and the Northern ports remain shut, we can get no supply of flax to make up for last year's deficient crop, and for the increased demand from England and Scotland, for both flax and yarn to supply the importations which formerly were brought from Russia. We shall likewise be without a sufficient supply of flaxseed for next crop. These are truly alarming circumstances, and require immediate care; it behoves government, as well as those concerned in the trade, and indeed all who wish well to the peace of this country, to consider of our probable situation, if our chief manufacture should be stopped by the want of materials, and the majority of the people consequently thrown out of employment. Speculators, both in Dublin and Belfast, have been active in making large purchases of white linens. Enlarged views of public utility, should interest the community to lose no time in proclaiming the danger, and as far as their efforts can go, to endeavour to ward it off. The orders of Council have brought on this distressful situation. The Linen-drappers of this province, should lose no time in calling a general meeting of the trade at Armagh, or some central situation, to lay the danger which is so justly apprehended, before the King, and both houses of parliament, by suitable petitions. No palliatives will do. The stopping of the exportation of flax and yarn, from one part of the Empire to another, would be only a vexatious measure, attempting to throw the burthen off ourselves on others. Such a modification of the orders of council, as would induce the Americans to remove the embargo, is the only substantial remedy. Time presses! The ships with flaxseed must soon leave America, to be in time for our spring sowing. It is impossible to calculate on the consequences, if flaxseed do not arrive to supply the spring demand.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from October 20, till November 20.

Barometer.....highest.	30 0	Thermometer.....highest.	57 0
mean.	29 5	mean.	46 7
lowest.	28 6	lowest.	40 9
<i>Synachus</i> ,	5	A fever both of the nature of nervous and inflammatory.	
<i>Cynanche Tonsillaris</i> ,	2		
<i>Erysipelas</i> ,	3	Saint Anthony's fire, or rose.	
<i>Variola</i> ,	12	Small-pox.	
<i>Scarlatina</i> ,	2	Scarlet fever.	
<i>Ophthalmia</i> ,	2	Inflammation of the eyes.	
<i>Anaurosis</i> ,	1	Blindness without apparent disease.	
<i>Abortus</i> ,	2	Abortion.	
<i>Icterus</i> ,	1	Jaundice.	
<i>Colica Spasmodica</i> ,	2	Cholic.	
<i>Ascites</i> ,	1	Dropsy of the belly.	
<i>Anasarca</i> ,	2	General dropsy.	
<i>Phtysis Pulmonalis</i> ,	2	Consumption.	